



TOGETHER

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2020



"I still can't believe that I'm here. That so many people in Coolmine believed in me. Pushed me. Worked for me. They have given me back **everything.**"

COOLMINE
COMMUNITY

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Pauline McKeown
Chief Executive

CHIEF EXECUTIVE WELCOME

During the last few months our work, home and personal lives have all merged as we focused on responding to the threat presented by Covid-19.

In Coolmine we established our Covid-19 contingency planning team on March 13th. **The team had one focused objective: To ensure the health & safety of our staff and clients during the unknown phase.**

A detailed contingency plan was developed, published internally, and shared with our funders. The plan outlined a summary of the measures being taken in Coolmine. Our priority throughout was the safety and well-being of our team, our clients and their families. It is thanks to the dedication and hard work of our staff and clients that our services continued safely throughout lockdown.

At the start of lockdown, we opened an 18 bed unit for positive Covid-19 homeless clients, in collaboration with HSE Social Inclusion Team. The residential service was part of the national emergency response for Covid-19. The project supported over 30 clients recover from Covid-19.

Our staff team in Cork/Kerry have continued to support delivery of isolation units and services to those cocooning locally. In addition, our Outreach, Community and Day Services have been preparing to welcome clients and their families back into our services.

Over recent weeks, we have been busy admitting new admissions. In the coming months, we expect demand for our addiction services to vastly increase as a result of the isolation, uncertainty and financial stresses experienced by individuals across Ireland during the pandemic.

Our staff have been exceptional during the last few months as we navigated the impact, the threat and reality of Covid-19. Our Community, Day and Residential Services continued to maintain high occupancy during this unsettling time.

Staff willingly took on new challenges including internal redeployment, new rosters and implementation of new digital and online ways of working. Collectively, we have minimised the impact of Covid-19 in Coolmine.

To those of you who supported us over the last few months, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for showing you care. It is thanks to your generosity and the dedication of our team that we minimised the impact of Covid-19 in Coolmine and maintained a full service delivery to our clients and their families.

Thank you,

Pauline



"Coolmine is special because of our outcomes, but also as a result of the brilliant, selfless people who work here and more so, the individuals with whom we get the privilege to work alongside"

Wendy O'Brien
Coolmine Lodge
Team Leader



"I CAME TO COOLMINE SEEKING
HELP WITH MY ADDICTION
PROBLEMS, ANGER, TRAUMA
AND LOSS IN MY LIFE."

PADDY'S STORY

I arrived to Coolmine treatment center on the 14th of February, coming from Castlerea prison. I came seeking help with my addiction problems, anger, trauma and loss in my life.

I've always wanted to help others avoid going down the same road I did in life. To do that, I knew I needed to learn how to read and write.

I chatted with Frank Thorpey in Coolmine and told him that my goal was to work in Pavee Point supporting people in addiction. So he made an appointment for me with the adult learning center in Blanchardstown.

It was so hard. I kept feeling that I couldn't do this and thinking I would never be able to as I have cerebral palsy and I always put myself down. But I just kept listening and showing up and, before I knew it, I started to understand. Then I started to do more work with two other Coolmine staff members, Lorraine and Tina who really helped me with my reading and writing. They also helped build me up for my social studies. So many times, I felt like just giving up or walking out, but Frank would always tell me "You can do it!" And he was right.

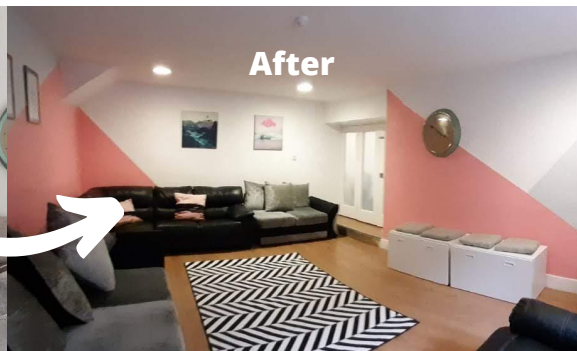
Today I'm working in Pavee Point. My reading and writing has improved so much. I know I did most of the hard work myself but I would never have been able to get where I am today only for Frank, my keyworker Lisa O'Leary and the staff in Coolmine who helped me have a second go in life.

COOLMINE PARTNERS

We are so fortunate to have meaningful partnerships with several corporate and community groups. Our corporate partners are our lifelines. Our clients have benefited from their financial support, service supports, supplies of essential goods and services refurbishment. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you.



Before



After

HEAD OF SERVICES

The first six months of 2020 was a busy time as we continued to provide services to the most marginalised in Irish society, including travellers, pregnant women, mothers with young children, prisoners, and homeless community members. The pandemic naturally brought challenges but thankfully it did not prevent our staff from continuing to deliver our essential services safely.



LISA LARKIN

Assessments were completed for 344 individuals and we had 84 new admissions to our primary treatment programmes. Our community and day services provided support to 172 individuals with 78 engaging in our structured group programmes including, drug free day programme, stabilisation programme, alcohol programme and contingency management programme. In addition, 29 Individuals engaged with our assertive traveller and new communities' services and a further 100 clients were supported by our assertive homeless in reach services. At Coolmine we place huge emphasis on the importance of family support and it is encouraging that 80 family members have engaged in our family support groups.

Our residential services have supported 82 individuals and we recently opened a pre-admission house to ensure that all new participants cocoon safely prior to admission. A total of 44 men were supported in Coolmine Lodge and 38 women were supported in Ashleigh House with 18 being mother and child placements.

Our internationally acclaimed Parents under Pressure Programme was delivered in our residential and community services. This strengths-based parenting support programme was delivered to 37 fathers and 57 mothers.

There were 78 progressions to our integration and aftercare services; and we would like to thank Blanchardstown and Mountview Youth Initiative for providing additional space to enable delivery of our programme. We were delighted to see 29 clients successfully graduate in the presence of their families in the Draiocht Theatre in early February 2020 and we look forward to our next graduation in September.



At any one time, Coolmine has over 60 homeless pregnant women and women with young children nationally seeking a residential treatment bed. We have been working to secure resources and establish a second residential treatment facility to respond to this demand. Although Covid-19 delayed progress, a community-based service in Limerick will be established in Autumn 2020 and the residential facility will be opened in 2021.

Thankfully, we continued to provide support services during this unprecedented time due to the contingencies we put in place. This was a team effort and could not have been achieved without the dedication and commitment of all of our fantastic staff! We look forward to continuing to grow and develop our services for the remainder of 2020 and into the future.

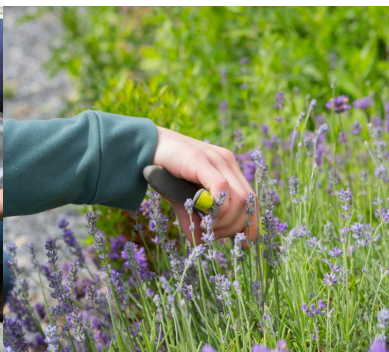


ABOUT COOLMINE

Our commitment to those who need our help will continue to remain throughout the challenging Covid-19 time, as now more than ever, people need our services. At Coolmine, we provide a range of quality community, day and residential addiction treatment services to vulnerable members of Irish society.

We provide treatment for homeless people, including pregnant women, women with young children, traveller community members, prisoners and those with mental health/trauma issues. Our vision is that everyone should have the opportunity to overcome addiction and live a fulfilled and productive life.

We operate the only mother and child residential treatment in Ireland, Ashleigh House supporting 24 women and 17 children located in Dublin 15. The service supports women, pregnant women and women with young children who are homeless. Our commitment to those who need our help will continue to remain throughout the challenging Covid-19 time, as now more than ever, people need our services.



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

There are several ways that you can make a difference to our clients and their families. Your support can help transform lives.

MAKE A DONATION:

Click on the donate button on coolmine.ie and select either once-off or monthly donation option.



VOLUNTEER:



Join us as a one-time fundraising volunteer. A small time commitment on your part would make a big difference!

TAKE PART IN ONE OF OUR EVENTS!



VIRTUAL WOMEN'S MINI-MARATHON 1st-10th October 2020

Email
fundraising@coolminetc.ie
for more info

DUN LAOGHAIRE HARBOUR SWIM RACE 16th August 2020

Info on coolmine.ie
or
leinsteropensea.ie/harbour-race/



OR EVEN HOST YOUR OWN EVENT!

HOST YOUR OWN FUN VIRTUAL EVENT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR COOLMINE

A race, walk, coffee morning, quiz night or even a company bingo event are some ideas.

For more info contact Lisa on 086 031 8290 or email
fundraising@coolminetc.ie

OUR WISH LIST

We dream big at Coolmine on behalf of our clients. In the past these dreams have become reality thanks to our donors and corporate partners and we are hoping this can happen again.

Our Community, Day and Residential Services support over 1500 individuals per year. We require your support to ensure we provide a safe and welcoming environment across all our services. In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought about a new safety awareness for us all, in our home, work and everyday environments.

In Coolmine, since early March, we have been working hard to mitigate the risk of exposure to Covid-19 for our clients, their children and families and our staff. Our vital services have not stopped and this remains challenging for us.

ITEMS WE CURRENTLY NEED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY:



BEDROOM

30 BEDS

FURNITURE

DUVETS, SHEETS
& PILLOWS



TECHNOLOGY

LAPTOPS/IT
EQUIPMENT

MOBILE
PHONES

EXTERIOR

LAWNMOWER

HORTICULTURE
SUPPLIES

DRIVEWAY
RESURFACING



LODGING UPGRADES

WINDOWS

PERSPEX
SCREENS

FLOORING



THANK YOU!



CONTACT US

For more information about the work of Coolmine or to offer us your support please contact:

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